that the techno-economic viability of the project is under examination by the Caparo Group. They expect the production to be about 3 million tonnes per annum. However, the cost of the steel plant and its expected date of completion has yet to be firmed up by the promotes.

Rally by Journalist and Non-Journalists

4131. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the rally of journalist and non-journalist held on December 24, 1991 at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the steps Government have taken on their demands?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to Press reports, the demands were:

(i) setting up of a parliamentary committee to look ijnto all the labour laws concerning newspaper industry.

(ii) Maintenance of the independent character of the Navbharat Times.

(iii) Abolition of the contract system in newspapers and other publications and the regularisation of the services of those working on contract.

(iv) Steps to end the 'onslaught' of managements on the freedom of the press.

(c) The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting have not received any representation/memorandum about demands. However, the aforesaid demands have been noted from press reported. As regards grievances about labour matters, specific grievances will have to be taken by the agrieved parties in the relevant forum as per applicable labour laws. Complaints regarding violation of freedom of press can also be taken up with the Press Council of India.

Disinvestment of Shares of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

4132. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have disinvested about eight per cent shares of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.

(b) if so, the details thereof with reasons; and

(c) its repercussions on Corportate Sector for basic telephone services?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have disinvested 20 percent shares of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. in favour of Public Sector financial/ investment institutions, mutual funds and merchant banks by end of February, 1992.

(c) It has no repercussions on provision of basic telephone services.